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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

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COWBIRDS BREEDING AT DONNER CREEK, CALIFORNIA

I have spent many seasons in the field about Donner Lake and Donner Summit, and was surprised on July 13, 1952, to hear cowbirds *(Molothrus ater)* calling among the willows along Donner Creek. As their presence indicated probale breeding, I made a special search for eggs in likely nests and was rewarded by finding a cowbird egg in the nest of a yellow warbler *(Dendroica aestiva)* in a willow clump. The nest held two young yellow warblers, one addled warbler egg and one cowbird egg.

— Emerson A. Stoner, *Benecia, Calif.*

(This area is about 25 miles outside of the breeding range of the cowbird as shown on the map on page 438 of Grinnell and Miller's "Distribution of the Birds of California — Ed.)

JULY TRIP TO LANDS END

This trip, on July 15, in which 15 members and friends joined, was taken under favorable weather conditions — moderate temperature, cloudless sky and no appreciable wind. Few birds were seen on the Seal Rocks group — western and Heermann gulls, brown pelicans, double-crested (?) cormorants, black turnstones and surf-birds. Leaving the Cliff House, we walked through Sutro Heights and on along Merrie Way to the bluffs overlooking the Golden Gate. On the rocks here, and in the water, were a few pigeon guillemots but no nestlings. Caspian terns sailed by. We walked perhaps a mile east of this point via a descending trail to a route parallel to and high above the shore, passing golden mimulus, fiddleneck and other colorful wildflowers in profusion. We lunched at the foot of a great cliff covered with live-forevers in bloom, the plants continuing in exceptional display below us to the beach level. This area is well worth exploring for its plant forms alone. The following 23 species of birds were recorded at Lands End and immediate vicinity.

Brown pelican, double-crested cormorant, Calif. quail, surf-bird, black turnstone; western and Heermann gulls; Caspian tern, pigeon guillemot, mourning dove, Anna hummingbird, hairy woodpecker, chestnut-backed chickadee. robin, house sparrow, Brewer blackbird; purple and house finches; pine siskin, Am. goldfinch, Oregon junco; white-crowned and song sparrows.

— E. A. Mayers, *Leader and Historian.*

BIRDS OF THE ARROYO MOCHO AREA

The Golden Gate Audubon Society has been visiting the area south of Livermore at the McCoy Ranch and the lower Arroyo Mocho since 1929. From the files of THE GULL we have compiled a list of the birds recorded on 16 trips. Starting with Charles A. Bryant, other leaders have been Joseph J. Webb, Mrs. Albert B. Stephens, Gordon Bolander, T. Eric Reynolds, Junea W. Kelly, Herman V. Leffler, Jean M. F. Dubois, A. Laurence Curl, Arthur H. Myer, Harry A. Adamson, Kenneth Schulz, and Howard L. Cogswell. This area has been covered principally during the spring months and there is a good opportunity for the Oakland Boy Scouts to continue recording for the remainder of the year at their week-end camp "Rancho Los Mochos" in this area. The following 113 species have been recorded from this region.

Green heron, mallard, turkey vulture; sharp-shinned, Cooper and red-tailed hawks; golden eagle, marsh hawk, prairie falcon, sparrow hawk, Calif. quail, killdeer, greater yellow-legs, band-tailed pigeon, mourning dove, road-runner; barn, horned and burrowing owls; poor-will, common nighthawk; vaux and white-throated swifts; Anna, rufous, and Allen hummingbirds; belted kingfisher, red-shafter flicker; Calif., Lewis, hairy, downy, and Nuttall woodpeckers; western kingbird, ash-throated flycatcher; black and Say phoebes; western flycatcher, western wood pewee, olive-sided flycatcher, horned lark; violet-green, tree, bank, rough-wingd, barn and cliff swallows; purple martin; Steller and scrub jays; yellow-billed magpie, American raven, crow, plain titmouse, bush-tit; white-breasted and red-breasted nuthatches; brown creeper, wren-tit; house, Bewick, canyon and rock wrens; mockingbird, Calif. thrasher, robin; hermit and olive-backed thrushes; western and mountain bluebirds; blue-gray gnatcatcher, ruby-crowned kinglet, water pipit, cedar waxwing, phainopepla, loggerhead shrike; Hutton, solitary and warbling vireos; orange-crowned, yellow, myrtle, Audubon and Macgillivray warblers; yellow-throat, yellow-breasted chat, pileolated warbler, house sparrow, western meadowlark, red-winged blackbird, Bullock oriole, Brewer blackbird, brown-headed cowbird, western tanager, black-headed grosbeak, lazuli bunting; purple and house finches; pine siskin; American, lesser and Lawrence goldfinches; spotted and brown towhees; savannah, lark and rufous-crowned sparrows; Oregon junco; chipping, white-crowned, golden-crowned, Lincoln and song sparrows.

— ARTHUR H. MYER.

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The April 1953 number of SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN has an article "Darwin's Finches" by David Lack. The 14 closely related species of finches in the Galapagos Islands are a living case study in evolution.

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In the July 20, 1953 number of TIME magazine (page 64) is an article on bird song. Two professors at Ohio State University, Donald Borror and Carl Reese, used an audiospectrograph to analyze the songs. Some songs such as that of the song sparrow can be heard completely by human ears, others such as that of the golden-crowned kinglet contain many notes that are too high-pitched. Some birds can sing what amounts to a major chord; the wood thrush can hold as many as four simultaneous notes. How this is done is not known.

AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS FOR 1953 - 1954

The schedule for the Audubon Screen tours for the coming season has been announced by Miss Doris Brenneman, Chairman of the Screen Tours Committee. As in previous years the place is the Berkeley High School Little Theatre. Season tickets may be obtained from Miss Brenneman or from other members of her committee as will be announced later. The price is the same as last year, $ 3.50.

Wed., Oct. 7	Alexander Sprunt, Jr.	"Wing Havens"
Mon., Nov. 9	Murl Deusing	"Outlaws in Nature"
Tues., Jan. 19	Cleveland P. Grant	"Wildlife of Marsh and Mountain"
Fri., Feb. 26	Robert C. Hermes	"Once Upon an Island"
Thurs., Apr. 8	Carl W. Buchheister	"Pastures of the Sea"

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An article by G. W. Salt of the University of California at Davis "The Relation of Metabolism and Distribution in Three Finches of the Genus Carpodacus" was published in Ecological Monographs, Volume 22, pages 121-152 (1952). The metabolic rates of Carpodacus purpureus, C. mexicanus and C. cassini (purple, house and Cassin finch, respectively) were measured. C. purpureus can withstand high temperatures but operates more efficiently in moist than in dry air. This is the only one of the three finches found naturally in the humid eastern states. C. mexicanus can withstand high temperatures in dry but not in moist air, hence is not found east of the Great Plains except for the colony on Long Island vicinity, apparently released birds. C. cassini shows little ability to stand temperatures above 82° F. but is slightly more efficient in dry air. The Cassin finch breeds only in high mountains of the west, generally at a somewhat higher elevation than the purple finch. The differences manifested are interpreted as being due to differences in the area of the evaporation surface of the respiratory tract.

The seventy-first stated meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union will be held in Los Angeles at the Los Angeles County Museum and the University of Southern California on October 21 - 25. Except for the business sessions of the Council, Fellows, and Members, all sessions are open to the public on payment of the registration fee of $ 2.00.

The thirty-fourth annual meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club was held at the University of Michigan Biological Station on June 14 - 17, 1953. The president is Dr. Walter J. Breckenridge, Director of the Minnesota Museum of Natural History. Dr. Breckenridge will be remembered for the complimentary showing of the color film "Paul Bunyan Country" in Oakland on Feb. 10, 1950. The Wilson Ornithological Club is a similar organization to the Cooper Society, being primarily mid-western, and publishes THE WILSON BULLETIN quarterly. Membership as in the Cooper Society is open to amateurs and is $ 3.00 per year, with sustaining membership $ 5.00.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The 432nd meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held on September 10 at the home of Dr. and Mrs. T. Eric Reynolds, 140 Estates Drive, Piedmont. Following six o'clock supper in the garden Laurel Reynolds will show her latest color film. Come and bring prospective members to this delightful occasion which we now regard as an annual party! Bus #18 on —Franklin St., Oakland, goes out Park Boulevard. Get off at Leimert St. and continue on Park Blvd. one block to Estates Drive, then two blocks to #140.

Send your reservations on enclosed postal card AT ONCE!

— DOROTHY DEAN SCOTT, *Program Chairman.*

SEPTEMBER TRIP TO ALVISO AND DUMBARTON BRIDGE

On Sunday, September 13, to Alviso at the south end of San Francisco Bay, meeting time 9 A.M. at the schoolhouse. Alviso is on Route 9 between Milpitas and Sunnyvale. After birding around Alviso we will drive up to Dumbarton Bridge and have lunch at the KGO tower, then bird in this vicinity. This should be a good time of year for the phalaropes and other shore and marsh birds. Leader, Harold G. Peterson, LO. 8-7534. Bring lunch, binoculars, telescopes and interested friends.

SEPTEMBER TRIP TO GOLDEN GATE PARK

On Saturday, September 26, to Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. Meet at 43rd and Fulton Streets at 9 A.M. Birding will be at the Chain of Lakes and later perhaps cover other areas in the park. Leader, Arthur Myer, BE. 7-3080. Bring lunch if desired, binoculars, telescope and interested friends.

— ALBERT BOLES, *Acting Field Trips Chairman.*

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Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.
Established January 25, 1917
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